(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during the last one year; and

(c) the action proposed to stop such racket?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Sale and purhcase of human organs including kidney is banned under the provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organ Act, 1994. The Act has stringent provisions for punishing any one who commits such acts. Under Section 13(2) of the Transplantation of Human Organ Act, 1994, the State Governments are empowered to appoint Appropriate Authorities for the purpose of the Act who are empowered to investigate any complaints of breach of provisions of the Act including those pertaining to sale and purchase of human organs including Kidney. The Act has been adopted by several States including the Government of Kerala.

National Population Fund

1239. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the controlling authority of the National Population fund has not been finalized so far; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. A decision has already been taken to locate the National Population Stabilisation Fund (NPSF) in the Department of Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Free Drugs to TB Patients in Delhi

1240. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a scheme in Delhi to provide free drugs to T.B. patients even if they are getting treatment from private practitioners;

(b) if so, whether Government have issued any guidelines to be followed by the private practititioners; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Under Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP), there is a scheme to privde free drugs to TB patients even if they are getting treatment from private practititioners.

(b) and (c) To increase the access to TB care services in the country including Delhi, guidelines have been evolved for involvement of private practitioners. Private Practititioners (PPs) can involve themselves in the implementation of Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) through the concerned Districts TB Control Society through following schemes;

1. Referral of patients.
2. Provision of Directly Observed Treatment.
3. Designated microscopy centres set up for microscopy only or for both microscopy and treatment for which commodity assistance/ commodity and financial assistance is provided.

For provision of free anti-TB drugs through private practitioners, the PPs are required to provide treatment to patients as per RNTCP Guidelines. It is mandatory to display in the clinics, a sign in their local language indicating that it is a DOTS Centre under RNTCP and all anti-TB drugs under RNTCP are provided by Government of India and is given to the patients free of cost.

Tele Medicine Technology

1241. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide the services of experts located in Metropolis and big cities to the patients located in small towns and rural areas through Tele-Medicine Technology;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme or project;

(c) whether Government propose to establish a Tele-Medicine Technology centre in Karnataka; and